



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
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Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Matthew Hoppock
MuckRock News
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Somerville, MA 02144-2516
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Re: Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2019-001897
Request No. MRU-FOIA-64-247
MWH:DRC

VIA: Email

Dear Matthew Hoppock:

You appealed from the action of the Justice Management Division's Mail Referral Unit (MRU) on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to "employment records for a former DOJ employee who worked for either the INS or the border patrol in the 1980s." I note that you have appealed the MRU's determination that you designated organizations outside of the Department of Justice. Please note that this Office was closed due to a lapse in funding appropriations between December 22, 2018, and January 25, 2019, which resulted in a delay in responding to your appeal.

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming, on modified grounds, MRU's action on your request. A proper FOIA request for records must reasonably describe the records sought. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(A); see also 28 C.F.R. 16.3(b)(2018). I have determined that you did not reasonably describe the subject of your request. Please provide a name or other identifying information that would enable a search within a reasonable amount of time.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of MRU in response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information

Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

4/25/2019

X 

Matthew Hurd, Associate Chief, for
Sean O'Neill, Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff
Signed by: MATTHEW HURD